

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 14–22 are added. The following is the status of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1–13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14. (New). A method for fermenting a bacterium, producing an enzyme of interest, in a culture medium of at least 50 litres, comprising:

adding one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propandiol, 1,3-propandiol, ethylene glycol, trehalose, xylitol, arabitol, dulcitol, mannitol, erythritol, cellobiose, sorbitol and a polyether having an average molecular weight less than 1000, to the culture medium before and/or during fermentation, wherein the compound is low metabolizable measured by $(OD_{III}-OD_{II})/(OD_I-OD_{II}) < 25\%$ as defined herein.

Claim 15. (New). The method of claim 14, wherein the bacterium is a *Bacillus* strain.

Claim 16. (New). The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme is a hydrolase.

Claim 17. (New). The method of claim 14, wherein the compound is added in an amount of least 0.1 % (w/w) of the culture medium.

Claim 18. (New). The method of claim 14, wherein the compound is 1,2-propandiol.

Claim 19. (New). The method of claim 14, wherein in addition to the compound a salt is added to the fermentation medium.

Claim 20. (New). The method of claim 19, wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of a chloride, a sulphate, a phosphate, a nitrate, and an ammonium salt.

Claim 21. (New). The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme of interest is recovered.

Claim 22. (New). The method of claim 14, wherein the enzyme is recovered after removal of the bacterium.